

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska

Teleconference

Meeting Date

September 25, 2013
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Ric Nelson – Chair
Art Delaune
Dean Gates
Taylor Gregg
Karli Lopez
Lucy Odden

Staff:

Teresa Holt, Executive Director
Amanda Cooper
Patrick Reinhart
Rich Sanders

Minutes prepared by: Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order –1:00 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR
INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Teresa Holt announced that Hannah Foreman, the new legislative intern, has been officially hired.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Karli Lopez noted that some of the dates listed in the Upcoming Committee Meetings were past. With those revisions, Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Karli Lopez **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the August 28, 2013 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Teresa Holt stated that there was no correspondence to report on.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Ric Nelson reported that he just came back from the Home and Community Based Services Conference in Washington, D.C., and he learned a lot. Ric said that he thinks the Council chair and the DD Chair should attend this conference every year because it has everything that the Council is working on all in one place.

Other than that, Ric stated that they have been preparing for the Council meeting the first week of October.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Developmental Disabilities/Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee

Art Delaune reported that he had chaired his first DD Committee meeting recently. The DD Committee discussed the interest of several members in joining the ad hoc committee on autism, which has been discussed but not officially formed. Ric Nelson asked Teresa to add a discussion of the autism ad hoc committee to the Council meeting agenda so the Council could vote on whether to have it.

Art Delaune noted that the DD Committee had requested that Maureen Harwood include information in her regular DD wait list reports about the number of people who are drawn from the registry but afterward found to be ineligible for services. The committee is interested in why those people are not eligible and how they might be able to receive services other than waiver services.

Art stated that the rest of the meeting focused on the work plan, and they are prepared to report on it at the October Council meeting.

Ric Nelson reported that he and Carrie are still planning a visit to the reuse store at Access Alaska, and then they would reconvene the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee.

Patrick Reinhart added that he had visited the largest independent living center in the country, Independence First, while he was in Wisconsin, and they were having a grand opening of their reuse and recycle center for durable medical equipment. Patrick described how they take the equipment completely apart to clean and refurbish it, with low labor costs because the work is done by prisoners. Patrick noted that he had asked whether Medicaid covered purchases of recycled equipment, and the answer was that they are still looking into the laws on Medicaid, but most purchases are funded through third-party buyers such as insurance.

Education Committee

Taylor Gregg reported that the Education Committee spent the last meeting working on their work plan and deciding on priorities to bring to the October meeting.

Early Intervention Committee

Karli Lopez reported that when the EIC reviewed their work plan, they found that they had made great progress, and they have a lot of plans in the works too, so they are fired up for the October meeting. Also at the last EIC meeting, Mary Aery of SESA and GAINS went over some social skills cards that have been developed and how they are being used.

Legislative Committee

Dean Gates reported that the Legislative Committee met on August 29th, and the Complex Behavior Collaborative is still a top priority. The administration has suggested that they recommend funding cuts to other areas to fund the CBC, but Dean stated that the Council and the Legislative Committee's position is that they won't recommend cuts elsewhere but will still request funding for the CBC. Reta Sullivan is working to compile data to demonstrate the value of the Complex Behavior Collaborative.

Dean Gates stated that the committee discussed the Employment First legislation, and Representative Millett's office is preparing a draft bill to prefile before the legislative session. Patrick added that Representative Millett and her aide, Akis Gialopsos, are planning to participate in the Legislative Committee meeting on September 26th, and they hope to share the draft bill then.

Dean commented that the Legislative Committee is still supporting the Education Committee on the restraint and seclusion bill and the HSGQE. Dean had no update on the state match for public and community transportation, but noted that the Alaska Mobility Coalition has another conference planned for October 22nd.

Because Dean Gates has declared a conflict on the accessible taxi ordinance, Patrick Reinhart reported on this topic. Patrick stated that a substitute ordinance has been submitted to the Anchorage Assembly, and the coalition of organizations and agencies that are following the accessible transportation issue met recently. Patrick said that it would probably take about a month for the new ordinance to make its way to the Assembly, and another work session is planned for October 11th in the hopes of making the ordinance agreeable to all parties. Patrick noted that the Anchorage Daily News had published an article about the accessible taxi ordinance in which Ric Nelson was quoted, and KTUU also discussed it on the TV news.

Dean Gates stated that the Legislative Committee would be going over their work plan at the September 26 meeting.

Employment/ Transportation

Lucy Odden reported that the Employment /Transportation Committee had their second meeting on September 16th, and Rich Sanders gave reports on the DEI grant, the AIEI grant, and Peer Power. Lucy stated that the AIEI Advisory Board would meet October 1st, and they are working on policy recommendations to give to SDS.

Lucy noted that David Levy of the Alaska Mobility Coalition had told the committee that the 2013 Transit Conference would be in Juneau October 22nd to 24th.

Lucy stated that she and Rich did a disability awareness presentation at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and that many people said it was a wonderful presentation.

Lucy reported that the committee went through the five goals on employment and transportation and developed a draft work plan for approval at the October Council meeting.

Housing

There was no report on housing at this meeting.

Autism

Teresa Holt reported that the autism insurance task force met again on September 16th, and spent four hours going over what services are available in Alaska by age group, and they have another meeting next month to talk about funding and insurance issues.

Teresa noted that Bret Kolb, the director of the Division of Insurance, had an interesting chart showing percentages of the Alaska population covered by different kinds of insurance. Teresa said that she is going to try to get that chart from him and pass it on to Council members.

ASPEN Project

Amanda Cooper reported that the Alaska Safety Planning and Empowerment Network (ASPEN) has set a date of October 18th to do a community engagement presentation in the selected focus community as the first step in completing a needs assessment.

Health Grant

Amanda Cooper reported that the Health and Disability Program Committee met at the end of August and earlier today. They are working on setting a different regular meeting time to accommodate greater participation, but the next meeting is October 10th and will not be changed. They are going to start the strategic planning process, having just received the results of the statewide needs assessment. They will present the highlights of the needs assessment at the October Council meeting.

Amanda stated that they have been doing and scheduling a lot of presentations, including one at the National Association of Social Workers Conference in October and two separate sessions at the Alaska Public Health Association in January.

Peer Power

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power has been doing a lot this month. They finished their work plan to present to the Council in October, and have

planned some board training workshops. Peer Power meets again October 14th at 5:15 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Teresa Holt stated that they have been busy hiring, and with the loss of Sheryl, there were some delays in getting Hannah hired. They have also been interviewing for Sheryl's position and the employment program coordinator position, and Teresa said that she hopes to have hired two people by the next Executive Committee meeting.

Teresa reported that at the Trust meeting, a lot of money was designated for the beneficiary employment focus area, and they have also added money to the alcohol focus area. The FY15 budget for the beneficiary employment area is a million dollars, so Teresa and Rich have been trying to make plans for how to use that money, with the caveat that it cannot fund ongoing programs or positions.

Teresa informed the Executive Committee that an executive session has been scheduled for Wednesday morning of the Council meeting at 8:15, and it's important for everyone to be there.

OLD BUSINESS

Trust Regional Summits

Patrick Reinhart reported that the first regional advocacy summit will be in Fairbanks at the same time as the October Council meeting, with 33 people signed up. The next one will be in Palmer on October 8th and 9th, and they are still trying to get more people to sign up for that one. There will also be an advocacy summit in Anchorage in early December.

Approval of the October Council Meeting Agenda

Ric Nelson noted that there were two calls to order on the agenda, so Teresa corrected that. Teresa Holt noted that they needed to add a discussion about an FASD ad hoc committee under Committee Reports on the last day of the meeting. Also, Teresa relayed a request from Hannah

Foreman, the intern, to move her presentation to be the last item on Wednesday because she has a class earlier in the day.

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the agenda for the October Council meeting with the revisions noted above. The motion **PASSED**.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of FY 14 Budget

Teresa Holt explained that in response to a request from the past Executive Committee, she had added some visuals to the budget. Teresa led a discussion of the budget documents that were included with today's meeting materials, explaining that she has tried to show more detail than is available from the SDS finance department. A few discrepancies were discussed, and Teresa reminded committee members that it is still a work in progress and they will talk about it more at the Council meeting.

Ric Nelson asked how much the Council might be able to save by holding meetings at the Trust. Teresa said that she and staff would look into that. Ric and Teresa discussed having one meeting a year somewhere outside of Anchorage or Juneau.

Trust Meeting Report

The Trust meeting was covered in the Executive Director's Report.

Report from Home and Community Based Services Conference

The Home and Community Based Services Conference was discussed in the Chair's Report.

PCA Policy Review

Ric Nelson asked committee members for their thoughts on this draft of a policy regarding participation of personal care attendants in Governor's Council meetings. Discussion followed about what is appropriate and how to handle a PCA, who has not been appointed to the Council or invited to

Speak, who wants to speak in a Council meeting. It was decided that participation by personal care attendants should be at the discretion of the Council member whom they serve. Some revisions and edits to the policy were suggested, and Art Delaune said that he would look into whether Access Alaska has a code of ethics for PCAs. Ric Nelson said that the committee would discuss the policy again at the next Executive Committee meeting.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Peer Power:** 10/14 from 5:15 to 7 p.m.
- **Developmental Disabilities Committee:** 11/6 from 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Employment & Transportation Committee:** 10/8, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- **Early Intervention Committee:** 10/9 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Health and Disability Committee:** 10/10 from 10 to 11 a.m.
- **Education Committee:** 10/17 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.
- **Legislative Committee:** 9/26 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

- **AIEI Advisory Committee** in Anchorage 10/1
- **Governor's Council Meeting** in Anchorage 10/2 to 10/4
- **Alaska Brain Injury Network board meeting** in Fairbanks, 10/23 – 10/24

TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for October 22nd, 2013 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Karli Lopez **MOVED** for adjournment. Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.